Magician probes Jesus' miracles, affirms faith

Mark Jimenez back, won't talk about Nani



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, December 19, 2005

website: www.inq7.net

Meralco: We don't owe gov't ₱42-B

'Takeover plan sending dangerous overtones'

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. is contesting the claim of a top Malacañang official that it owes state-owned National Power Corp. P42 billion, which he wants converted into equity in Meralco to bring down electricity costs.



Sr. Mariani, human rights fighter; 81



ANTI-WTO SOLIDARITY

Cha-cha a subterfuge to keep GMA in power

ANALYSIS

Yes, Virginia, there are little Santa Clauses



Luzon folk keep alive Misa de Gallo traditions

20 ConCom members oppose no-el scenario

NOT ALL MEMBERS OF THE 55-MAN PALACE-created Consultative Commission (ConCom) had agreed on no elections in 2007 as contained in the transitory provisions of the Charter-change recommendations they submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo last week.

1,000 Filipino maids join anti-WTO rally

Ka Roger: Truce still a possibility

On weekend, 'transition president' goes malling

PNP brass in Australia on anti-crime, -terror tour

[illegible]

Sr. Mariani, human rights fighter; 81



TFD and HR

Ideological rift

Poor taking up arms

'Remarkable equipoise'

The Daily Gospel

Hinting at openness, CBCP head starts own blog

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has started his own Internet blog, hinting of a more open leadership than his predecessor.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo's blog is called "Reflections" and may be accessed through www.abplagdameo.blogspot.com or through the official CBCP website www.cbcponline.net.

Lagdameo's first "reflection" was the [illegible] speech he delivered at the 24th National Prayer Breakfast earlier this month, an event intended to begin the healing and reconciliation process among the country's warring politicians.

In the speech, Lagdameo outlined what was expected of leaders and individuals in order to achieve national transformation. Present at the prayer breakfast were President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel Ramos and other government officials.

Lagdameo urged the leaders to be accountable to the people by not sweeping "the truth under the carpet."

"Accountability means that leaders, since they know that they are the servants of the people, answer to the people, like servants to their masters," he wrote.

"They do not run away from the truth or try to camouflage it. They take responsibility. They make restitution or try to repair the damage they have done, when they have done wrong."

Observers considered the speech, delivered in [illegible] fashion, Lagdameo's way of indicating the [illegible] his leadership intended to take in the coming months.

Lagdameo started the blog within days of officially assuming leadership of the CBCP, which counts the country's 119 bishops as its members, on Dec. 1.

His predecessor, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, has his own blog, but it came long after he became CBCP president two years ago.

At least five other bishops have similar sites on the Internet. Former CBCP presidents Oscar Cruz and Orlando Quevedo have "Viewpoint" and "Perspectives," respectively.

CBCP vice president Antonio Ledesma, the bishop of Ipil in Zamboanga, has "Pastoral Companion," [illegible] Bishop [illegible] has "The Morning," and Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso, "Tablets."

Of these blogs, Cruz's is easily the most active. It has new postings at least three a week. Comments are mostly on the raging political and economic issues of the day.

Meralco: We don't owe gov't ₱42-B

Energy crisis

No liability

Pain

Palace view

Dangerous

Magician probes Jesus' miracles, affirms faith

Skeptics

7 miracles

The truth

Cha-cha a subterfuge to keep GMA in power

Ambiguous powers

Draft ignores resign call

FVR formula

Stalemate

The WORLD

WTO reaches breakthrough

HONG KONG —TRADE NEGOTIATORS REACHED a breakthrough Sunday on a last-minute deal, likely averting a collapse in talks that could have seriously crippled the World Trade Organization's ability to promote global free trade.



INVENTION WHICH NEVER TOOK OFF

Syria behind Hariri murder, says UN prober

Bush admits he authorized spying on Americans, aliens

Why are some prone to SARS, others not? Study gives answer

45 dead in stampede for food

CHENNAI, INDIA—AT LEAST 45 PEOPLE, mostly women, were killed and more than 50 injured Sunday in a stampede for food coupons at a flood relief camp in the southern Indian city of Chennai, police said.

More than 3,000 people affected by floods had gathered at a government school in the Tamil Nadu state capital to collect food coupons early Sunday, an official said.

"The toll has now risen to 45. Around 50 people are injured. Around 30 people have been taken to the hospital, of which a few are very seriously injured," a police official, who declined to be named, told AFP.

"There may be more casualties."

The relief center was scheduled to open at 7:30 a.m., but people gathered hours earlier fearing there would not be enough coupons to go round.

"Suddenly it started raining heavily and there was a mad scramble to get in. As the lock on the main door snapped, those in the front got crushed by the jostling crowd behind them," said witness Dhanalakshmi, who uses only one name.

Most of the victims were women, police said. Heavy rain was hampering rescue work.

Two of the city's main hospitals, Government and Royapettah, where the injured have been taken, were swamped by policemen and angry relatives.

Women wailed in the corridor of the Government General Hospital while policemen taking the dead to the morgue looked shaken.

At the site of the stampede one person recounted a lucky escape. *AFP*

Violence returns to Iraq



Sydney beaches deserted amid fears of new race riots

[illegible]

Scientists rebuild part of mammoth genome

[illegible]



Investigators question S. Korea cloning pioneer

SEOUL—INVESTIGATORS on Sunday began questioning South Korean cloning pioneer Hwang Woo-suk and members of his research team amid allegations that he may have faked his landmark stem-cell research, officials said.

An investigation committee launched two days ago by Seoul National University where he teaches, said its members visited Hwang's laboratory and began interviewing Hwang and his researchers.

"Interviews with researchers and professors began at 10 a.m. Sunday, with access to the laboratories of Hwang's research team limited," the committee said in a statement.

The panel said access to the laboratories was limited to "specific sectors relevant materials" and research data for its closed-door investigation.



HWANG AFP PHOTO

A tight-lipped Hwang showed no emotion when he arrived at the university's veterinary school for the questioning for which some 20 researchers on his team were also called in, according to Yonhap news agency.

Hwang, once a national hero, was accused by one of his collaborators Thursday of faking his research on the production of patient-specific stem cells.

Roh Sung-il, a fertility expert who co-authored Hwang's study published by Science, said the patient-specific stem cell colonies never existed.

But Hwang Friday rejected the charges, saying he had cloned 11 human embryos and cultivated patient-specific stem cell lines from them and his new tests would validate the research in 10 days.

Hwang also invited a prosecution probe, saying he suspected that his patient-specific stem cells had been "swapped" and replaced with ordinary stem cells from the fertility clinic run by Roh.

Though Hwang stood by his research, he said he had requested Science to retract his research paper due to "irretrievable mistakes in the photography" that accompanied his paper.

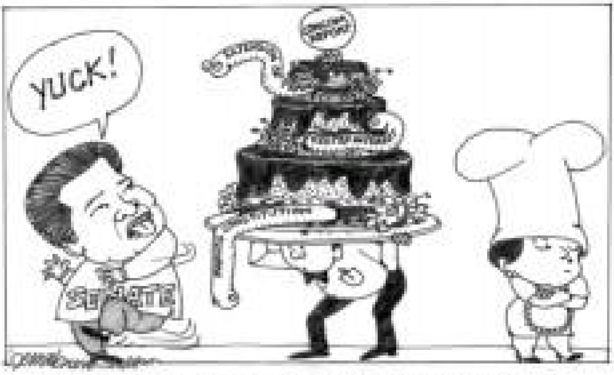
Stem cells refer to master cells that experts say can develop into any organ and some day may help fight cancer and other hard-to-treat diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes.

Hwang had stunned the world several times in recent years with his groundbreaking work that included cloning of the first human embryo to produce stem cells in 2004.

His breakthrough research on stem cell lines published in June 2005, was followed by the creation of the first cloned dog, Snuppy in August. *AFP*

Santas protest 'commercialized' Yule

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION



No elections?

EDITORIAL

THE REAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE DELIBERATIONS of the Consultative Commission on Charter change came at the very end, when a majority of the commissioners appointed by the President reconsidered an earlier vote and decided instead to propose the scrapping of the 2007 elections.

In one swoop, like a rogue missile suddenly appearing on the radar screen, the ConCom entered the public consciousness. Dismissed earlier as merely a political maneuver to buy time for an administration under siege (both from the opposition and President Macapagal-Arroyo's own allies), the ConCom, or at least its set of proposals for constitutional change, has suddenly materialized before us like a menacing presence in the sky, casting a long shadow over the public square.

It must be shot down—quickly, immediately, before it can wreak damage on our democratic institutions.

Old soldiers who refuse to just fade away

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Abat idea

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

War on terrorism

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



Education revolution

COMMENTARY

Eugenia Duran Apostol

Mother Mary and son

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa



Neither victory nor defeat

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



Filipinos who do the right thing

Fined gas station violated law on quality and safety

All talk, no action from columnists who cry wolf

LETTERS

Wrong facts

Ridiculous and pathetic leadership

Fire escapes, but who's checking?

Too much pork makes fatter pols

Across the NATION

Floods hit Palawan; 3 drown

THREE PERSONS DROWNED IN THE FLOODS OF SAN VIcente and Roxas towns in Palawan, according to Department of Public Works and Highways Palawan district engineer Ernest Millor.

Brownout

Leyte



Dawn Mass attendance up despite heavy rains

4 soldiers killed in clash

Giant Christmas tree gives joy to villagers





PAROL CONTEST

6 Batangas officials suspended

Japanese reported missing

Mark Jimenez ...



JIMENEZ

Yes, Virginia, there are little Santa Claures

Bigger Santas

Better than jazz concert

Teaching other hearts

Awkward beginning

All children are precious

Other Santa Clauses

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor
Emmie G. Velarde



'Da King' has not left the building

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"IT WAS AS IF HE JUST delivered the speech," said Susan Roces.

[illegible]

The FPJ Hall at the Mowelfund museum also honors five National Artists for Film

[illegible]

CONTINUED ON A26

31st METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

[illegible]

'Exodus: Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom'

[illegible]

TOUTED AS THE MOST EXPENSIVE PRODUCTION in the history of local films, "Exodus: Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom" [illegible]



DIRECTOR Erik Matti confers with his cast and crew on the set.



CATHOLICS gather outside Quiapo Church in Manila to attend the first of nine daily dawn Masses.

Luzon folk keep alive Misa de Gallo …

METRO

Number coding lifted

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday announced the two-week suspension of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) effective today until Jan. 1, 2006.

[illegible]



ACTOR Aga Muhlach is still at it, distributing toys and books donated by people to poor children, 11 years after he first thought of the MaAGA ang Pasko drive.

MaAGA ang Pasko: 11 years and counting

By Margaux C. Ortiz

[illegible]

METROBRIEFS

Beware of fake US treasury notes

[illegible]

Photographer loses P1.7M to thieves

[illegible]

Rebellion case transferred

[illegible]



'Da King' hasn't left the building

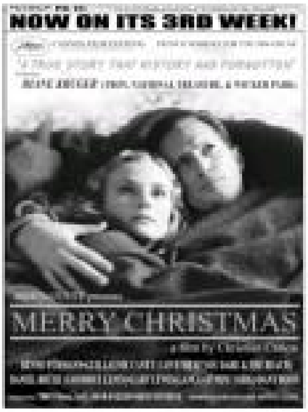






THE SADDLE









Did You Know...

'Maxi' fever

DJ Dylan

SPORTS

Sta. Lucia routs Coke

Harbour upsets G. Goose; FEI scores

Streaking Juggernaut overwhelms Juvenile race foes

Para Games: RP moves up to fifth place



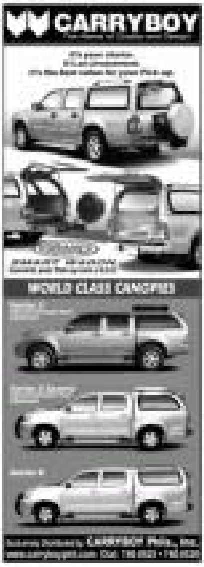
Santos, Hur Chair's Cup topnotchers

PCA OPEN

Arevalo bags crown

Crafty Korean ace brings down Tierro

Athletes get X-mas bonus from GMA



Harbour. . .

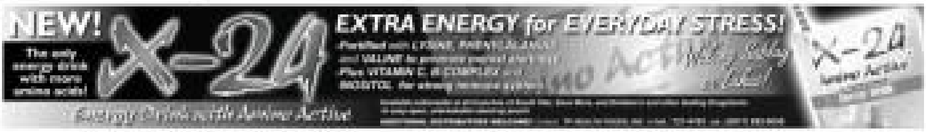
NCA 7-cock derby today

Makati cockfest round-4 up

RP needs a new Manny Pacquiao

BARE EYE







ROCKETS center Yao Ming shoots over Chris Wilcox of the Los Angeles Clippers

Mendoza captures 4th national duathlon title

Clippers end Rockets' run

Sta. Lucia. . .





MONDAY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1

BUSINESS

Past-due credit card debts hit P14.8B

19.4% of P76-B total receivables of banks

NEARLY A PESO OUT OF EVERY P5 OF CREDIT CARD EXposure of banks has fallen past due as of end-September this year, but "plastic" billings are on the rise due to various incentives offered by competing lenders.

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



NORTH EDSA TO MONUMENTO

MRT expansion to cost $191M



Makati Med president resigns

WHAT'S INSIDE



Lopez pre-IPO bonanza

More investments in eco-friendly vehicles sought

Third quarter slowdown

No Free Lunch

Below target

Production side woes

Lopez pre-IPO bonanza

Cocktales

Victor C. Agustin

Ortigas gets green, finally

Money-go-round

Heard through the grapevine

No Free Lunch

Few winners

Slower spending

Stocks . . .

BUSINESS

END-YEAR PROJECTION

LRTA sees ₱2B in '05 losses



Rail agency expects no gain until fares are increased



Rule changes seen to boost auto industry

More investments in eco-friendly vehicles sought

The Garci tapes are fake

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General



DOF bucks proposal to lower taxes on stock transactions

ATR Kim Eng bullish on RP stocks

Improved fiscal numbers attracting equities investors

SM property group to raise ₱1B for projects in 2006

More IPOs seen in 2006

GMA 7 earmarks ₱1B for expansion in '06

LandBank seeks $100M loan from World Bank

Banks' bad loans rose in Oct.

Proposed SPV law extension seen to ease industry's burden

Feasibility study on Victoria nickel project resumed

Makati Med president resigns

THE PRIME of Gilda Cordero-Fernando

LIFESTYLE

Editor Cheito Baral-Formoso
Associate Editor Lito B. Zulueta

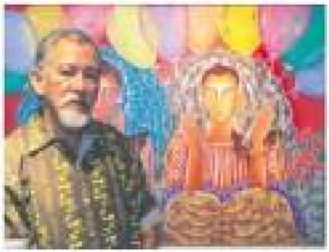
MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEA

Mario Parial redux

Recently included in Sotheby's auction of Southeast Asian art, he is back with a vengeance



MOTHER and Child of the Bamboo



THE ARTIST with his "Balloon Vendors"

IF YULETIDE IS A TIME FOR thanksgiving, then Mario Parial has a lot to be thankful for.

Aside from his resurgence of late, Parial was chosen among the 18 top Filipino artists to be included in the 20th anniversary auction of Sotheby's in Singapore last October. He thus joined the likes of National Artists Fernando Amorsolo, H.R. Ocampo, Ang Kiukok and Arturo Luz, as well as masters such as [illegible] and Romeo Tabuena.

Forty years ago, art did not rank among the more profitable careers or professions for young people. But art proved an irresistible calling to the young man from Gapan, Nueva Ecija, who was encouraged by somebody named Benedicto Cabrera, known today as Bencab. "When he saw my works and recognized how interested I was in art, Bencab suggested that I pursue a course in Fine Arts, too."

Parial's career actually had a major jump-start. In 1966, while still a student at University of Santo Tomas, he won the grand prize at the Art Association of the Philippines graphic-art competition. That same year, he won first prize in the Shell art contest.

The next year, he bagged the first prize of the Philippine Air Lines art contest and the second prize at the UST student annual art competition. By 1972, he had been included in the Thirteen Artists Awards of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Parial is a diverse talent. He has excelled in printmaking since the 1960s. His paintings are unique renditions of fiestas, kite-flying, vendors, Mother and Child.

His Marian works have been included in two international books on the subject, along with works by Michaelangelo, El Greco, Da Vinci and Raphael. The first book was edited by Life magazine editor in chief Michael [illegible], while the second was written by [illegible], a professor at Berkeley University.

Parial thinks he is now into his second life owing to his near-fatal bicycle accident in the 1970s, where he suffered a hem-

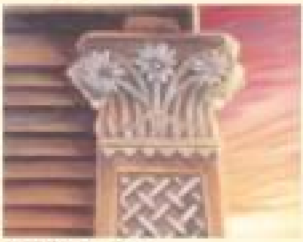
[illegible]

'Still Life' at Genesis, '3X' at Mag:Net, Albor-Tequi-Tysmans at



'FRAGILE Beauty,' by Molly Yap

VISUAL ARTS



'UNTITLED,' by Manuel





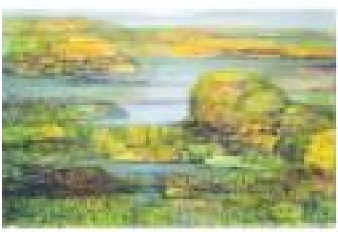


'CURVED & Radiant,' Juvenal Sansó

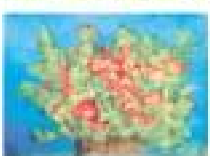
Sansó's sorcery, Wuzela's women

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

Expressionist



'SERENE Waters Flowing'



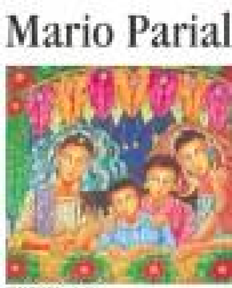
'ABUNDANT & Growing'

One truly alt



'FLOWER Vendors'

Mario Parial



'PAHIYAS Festival'

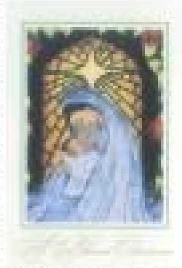


Pintô





Marian Christmas cards



ernative art space





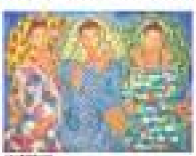




Zaballero vignettes grace charity Christmas cards



redux



One truly alternative art space



"UNTITLED," by [illegible] Campos

By Constantino C. Tejero

THIS IS GOING TO sound like a mantra, but another proof positive that art is booming in this country is the case of that little art gallery called Showroom at 1154-A Lazaro St., Bangkal, Makati City.

The place is at a crossroad, surrounded by thrift stores, junkyards, machine shops, vehicular traffic. The existence of this gallery in that depressed area of Makati City is an anomaly enough, but the fact that it has been carrying world-class art and has survived its first year should be cause for wonder.

Gallery owner Rafael Ignacio, himself an artist and a professor at the Technological University of the Philippines, says sale is only secondary to him. His primary consideration is giving a venue for the exhibition of his students' artworks, plus those of established artists who may happen to come by.

For its first anniversary this month, Showroom is offering a



ARTWORKS of emerging artists are given pride of place on the wall facing the entrance.